

Application Serial No. 09/986,731
Amendment dated March 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 16, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 16, 17, and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 17 and 18 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the consideration of the references listed on the IDS.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 27 and 28 were objected to for an informality. The Applicant presumes the objection was intended to apply to claims 17 and 18, since claims 27 and 28 were cancelled in a preliminary amendment filed November 19, 2001. Claims 17 and 18 were consequently amended in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kim, US 6,268,838. The rejection is traversed.

Claim 16 recites, in pertinent part:

"a driving circuit for changing luminance in accordance with the number of pulses applied to each of said individual electrodes within a unit time, thereby effecting gradation display."

Kim neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests a driving circuit for changing luminance in accordance with a *number* of pulses applied to *individual* electrodes within a unit time to effect gradation display. Kim, in fact, shows no individual electrode at all, let alone one to which gradation display is effected by changing luminance in accordance with a number of pulses. In Kim, rather, varying numbers of sub-fields

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corresponding to luminance values are combined in proportion to gradation data to display a pixel, as described at column 1, lines 59-62. Furthermore, a specific cell is illuminated and discharge of the specific cell is maintained for a predetermined time for each sub-field, as described at column 2, lines 9-11. This is to be contrasted with claim 16, in which a *number* of pulses applied to *individual* electrodes within a unit time is changed to effect gradation display.

Similarly, lines corresponding to sub-frames are scanned sequentially according to a gradation data bit, followed by discharge erase, to realize 256 gray levels, as described at column 2, lines 39-42. This is also to be contrasted with claim 16, in which a number of pulses applied to individual electrodes within a unit time is changed to effect gradation display.

Furthermore, only a common electrode driver 5 for driving a common electrode is shown in Fig. 1, not a driver for changing luminance in accordance with a number of pulses applied to individual electrodes within a unit time to effect gradation display, as recited in claim 16.

Finally, column 4, lines 15-67, to which the Office action refers at paragraph 4 on page 3, describes no driver for changing luminance in accordance with a number of pulses applied to individual electrodes within a unit time to effect gradation display at all, contrary to the assertion in the Office action. That section, rather, is devoted to realizing, *i.e.* storing and retrieving gradation data in memory, as described at column 4, lines 20-24 and 39-47 and column 5, lines 3-7 and 19-24, not changing luminance in accordance with a number of pulses applied to individual electrodes within a unit time to effect gradation display. Claim 16 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and adds further distinguishing elements. Claim 17 thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 is also earnestly solicited.

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Allowable Subject Matter:

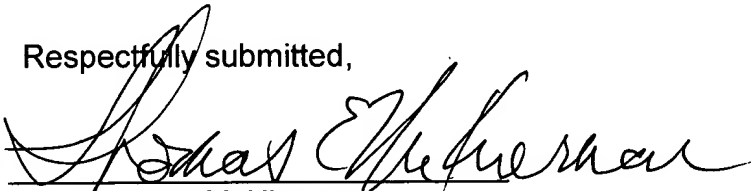
The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claim 18 contains allowable subject matter.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all claims 16, 17, and 18 are allowable over the cited references. Since the objections to the claims have been addressed, it is submitted that all of claims 16, 17, and 18 are now allowable. Allowance of all claims 16, 17, and 18 and of this entire application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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